



ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
**NICOLE PARRA**

Representing the 30th Assembly District



## *Parra Notes*

*July 28, 2006*

Hello Friends:

### **WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT**

Earlier, today, I sent a letter to **Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger** requesting that he convert the **Coalinga State Hospital** into a methamphetamine treatment facility.

The **Governor** is definitely on the right track in trying to reform and overhaul our state prison system. However, after speaking with local leaders, I strongly feel that **Coalinga State Hospital** can more effectively serve our communities as a treatment facility for methamphetamine addicts. The **Central Valley** is in the midst of a massive meth problem, and any measure we can take to remedy this problem must be taken.

In my letter to **Governor Schwarzenegger**, I outlined a number of reasons for proposing a methamphetamine treatment facility, at what is now **Coalinga State Hospital**, including the insufficient usage of facilities, where **Coalinga State Hospital** can house 1,500 inmates, but currently holds roughly 270; the statewide impact of methamphetamine use, but especially in the **Central Valley**, which is one of the largest regional producers, in the nation, of this narcotic; the burdens placed on **Valley** law enforcement, which is forced to deal with alarming rates of methamphetamine related crimes; and 4) the extraordinary pressures being placed on local hospitals, who must devote significant numbers of staff and resources to treating individuals addicted to methamphetamine.

We are facing a crisis in our state prison system, but each part of the state has its own unique problems and issues to tackle. For the **Central Valley**, one of the most daunting issues facing our communities is the production and spread of this horrible drug, and the consequences of its use by our citizens. Transforming **Coalinga State Hospital** into a treatment facility is the kind of move that sends a message to methamphetamine producers and users – the kind of message that says we will not shy away from this fight.

### **NOW TO THE REST OF MY WEEK IN THE DISTRICT**

To start off my week, I participated in a very important meeting of the **Sub-Committee for Kings Partnership for Prevention**, a task force setup to address the issue of **methamphetamine production and distribution**. **Commander Randy Leach**, of the **Corcoran Police Department**, conducted the meeting, which served as a terrific way for a number of public policy and law enforcement figures to come together on this critical issue. The goal of the task force is to decrease methamphetamine use in **Kings County** by supporting, participating in and creating opportunities for community collaboration to raise awareness and increase resources.

I also informed the group of two critical items in this year's budget that will add additional support to the fight against methamphetamine:

- The inclusion of \$6.5 million and 29.6 new positions for the **California Methamphetamine**

**Strategy (CALMS) Program**, a move that results in additional funding and ten positions (one-third of the 29.6) to be stationed in Fresno; and the

- Assurance ensuring all Central Valley counties can more directly apply for funds as part of a \$20 million augmentation to the **War on Methamphetamine Grant program**.

I had the opportunity to meet with **Angel Diaz** and discuss his work with the **child care center** in **Delano**. Angel informed me that he was able to secure additional unused funds from Kern County for child care in **Delano**. It was especially fun meeting with all the wonderful children benefiting from the great work **Angel** does.

After my meeting with **Angel**, I met with another great friend, who also happens to be the **Mayor of the City of McFarland, Rafael Melendez**. We talked about issues and topics impacting **McFarland**, as well as budget items that will affect **McFarland** and the Central Valley, in general.

To get some helpful updates on the **City of McFarland**, please visit the city's web site <http://www.mcfarlandcity.org/>

This week I also had the chance to take a tour of the oil plant facilities of **Kern Oil & Refining Co.**, which is an independent oil refining and marketing company with their headquarters and refinery facility located in **Bakersfield**. Their primary products of **California**-approved diesel fuel and gasoline, aviation turbine fuel (jet fuel), fuel oil, and aliphatic solvents are marketed mainly in **California** and its neighboring states.

It was a pleasure meeting with plant officials and seeing firsthand the refinery activities taking place at the plant.

If you would like to learn more about the work being done by **Kern Oil & Refining Co.**, please check out their web site <http://www.kernoil.com/>

I participated in a meeting with **Tammy Rosenberg**, of **Eagles Nest Daycare** and **Francian Macias**, **Office Manager of The Learning Center**, in **Kingsburg**.

We discussed a number of educational and health issues as they relate to children, but really focused in on the topic of the **CalWorks payments** these facilities and programs receives.

I also had the great pleasure of sitting down with **Mayor Leland Bergstrom** and **City Manager Don Pauley**, both from the **City of Kingsburg**. They provided me with an in-depth update on a number of the issues facing their community. We also discussed the idea of creating a more cooperative spirit amongst local counties, so that we can put together a strong, united effort to serve the needs of our constituencies.

To learn more about what is going on in **Kingsburg**, please take a look at their web site <http://www.cityofkingsburg-ca.gov/>

Last night, I hosted a reception for the **Valley Leadership Institute (VLI) Class of 2006**, and also provided information regarding **VLI** to the participants and answered questions about the program, too. We had a fabulous time at the reception, which was held at **Wine Sellers**, in **Hanford**.

The purpose of the **VLI** is to promote interest in the formation of public policy, to provide meaningful access to decision makers, and to help facilitate a working network of leaders in the **30th Assembly District**.

The **VLI** incorporates meetings and seminars for citizens from the **30th Assembly District** to learn

about the democratic process, meet local government officials and learn about key issues facing the **Central Valley**. It will take place in **Sacramento** where participants will meet experts in their respective fields and see how the State's government functions and operates.

This year's **Valley Leadership Institute** will take place on **August 7-10 in Sacramento**.

Congratulations to this year's class!

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This morning, I took part in the **unveiling of a new water treatment plant** that will ensure the delivery of safe drinking water to the residents of **Corcoran**.

After more than two years of design and construction, the **City of Corcoran** has begun using their new water treatment plant. The plant, which was designed and constructed by **Quad Knopf**, will help the City of Corcoran continue its commitment to the community to provide safe drinking by conforming to the new standards for drinking water set forth by the federal **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**.

The plant represents a landmark accomplishment for the **Central Valley**, as the scope and design of the plant is the first of its kind in the valley. Located at the existing **Station 1 site on Orange Avenue in Corcoran**, the plant will have the capability to treat all of the City's seven wells combined, a first for a plant of its kind in the **Central Valley**, rather than providing treatment at the individual wellheads. Additionally, the finished water can be stored in a two million gallon holding tank located on the site and not scattered across a number of smaller tanks.

The plant is equipped with the ability to pump up to 18 million gallons per day (MGD), with multi-media pressure filters that utilize ferric chloride as a coagulant to filter the water. The design of the plant also called for the modification of the City's seven existing wells to reduce the amount of sand found in the ground water. The project also included a one-half million gallon (mg) raw water blend tank, two one-third mg backwash reclaim tanks, chemical storage and injection system, six 2,500-gpm filter feed pumps, two 1,700-gpm booster pumps, one 3,150-gpm backwash pump, a 3,320 square-foot operations building and a wastewater pump station.

This is a major achievement for both the **City of Corcoran** and **Quad Knopf**, and I commend their efforts on behalf of **Corcoran's residents**. Today's unveiling is a fantastic example of the kinds of results that can be achieved through public-private partnerships.

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Earlier today, I paid a visit to the new **President of the Corcoran Chamber of Commerce, Darrel Frey**. We had a very informative conversation about some of the programs and projects on which the Chamber is currently working, and we also discussed a number of the Chamber's upcoming activities.

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I also had the chance to spend some time discussing water issues with some local water advocates, who work with the **Westlands Water District**.

Formed in 1952, **Westlands** encompasses more than 600,000 acres of farmland in **western Fresno and Kings counties**. The **District** serves approximately 600 family-owned farms that average 900 acres in size.

To read more about the **Westlands Water District**, please access their web site  
<http://www.westlandswater.org/>

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This weekend, I will be participating in a very special event at **Kings County Bowl**, in **Hanford**. The **Bowling for Wounded Soldiers Fundraiser** is being coordinated by **Sergeant Justin Bond, who served in the U.S. Army in Iraq** between December 12, 2003 and April 9, 2004, and during that time, he was wounded by enemy fire.

**Sergeant Bond** is planning to raise money for **Operation Soldier** by bowling in a marathon session to break the world record for consecutive games bowled. All proceeds will be given to **Operation Soldier**, a non profit organization.

The **Bowl-A-Thon** will take place over a 5 day period. The participants will take no more than 30 minutes off in an 8 hour period for their rest break and each participants goal is 1000 games straight. The participants will be staying awake for 4 and a half to 5 days straight for the troops.

For more information on **Operation Soldier**, please take some time and visit their web site <http://www.operationsoldier.com/>

Also this weekend, I will be attending a health screening at **The Browning Road School**. This free screening is being organized by **McFarland Family Resources** and is open to the public, specifically those who have no health coverage. The screening runs from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### **HELPFUL LINKS**

*Operation Hero Miles*

<http://www.heromiles.org/>

Care Packages for Soldiers

<http://anysoldier.com/>

### **County Information:**

Fresno

<http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/portal/>

Kings

<http://www.countyofkings.com/>

Kern

<http://www.co.kern.ca.us/>

Tulare

<http://www.co.tulare.ca.us/>

### **City Information:**

Coalinga

[www.coalinga.com](http://www.coalinga.com)

Kingsburg

[www.cityofkingsburg-ca.gov/](http://www.cityofkingsburg-ca.gov/)

Corcoran

<http://www.cityofcorcoran.com/>

Huron

[www.fresnocog.org/city1/city\\_of\\_huron.htm](http://www.fresnocog.org/city1/city_of_huron.htm)

Avenal

<http://www.avenalcalifornia.com/>

Hanford

<http://www.ci.hanford.ca.us/>

Lemoore

<http://www.lemoore.com/>

Bakersfield

<http://www.bakersfieldcity.us/>

McFarland

<http://www.mcfarlandcity.org/>

Wasco

<http://www.ci.wasco.ca.us/>

Arvin

<http://www.arvin.org/>

Delano

<http://www.delano-ca.org/default.htm>

Shafter

<http://www.shafter.com/>

### **NEED HOMEWORK HELP?**

The **California State Library** has made available through their website a new service called **Live Homework Help**. This service enables students to connect on-line with a tutor for assistance with homework questions. Supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funding, students can access Live Homework Help through [28 California public libraries](#). It is important to note that the tutors who respond to student questions are screened, trained, and closely monitored.

**Live Homework Help** is easy! Log on to <http://www.Kerncountylibrary.org> from your computer any time between 1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. and follow the simple setup instructions.

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## **MEETING REQUESTS**

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Anna Goddard** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov).

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## **INTERNS WANTED**

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at [Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov).

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at [Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov)

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov).

### **Bakersfield Office:**

601 24th St.,  
Suite A  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
Phone: (661) 334-3745  
Fax: (661) 334-3796

### **Hanford Office:**

321 N. Douty St.,  
Suite B  
Hanford, CA 93230  
Phone: (559) 585-7170  
Fax: (559) 585-7175

### **Capitol Office:**

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249  
Phone: (916) 319-2030  
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